DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

While my last newsletter was the one sent during the holiday season, I'd feel remiss to not say again "Merry Christmas" and maybe even "Happy Holidays". Now, onto what's been happening. As mentioned previously, I've had two visits to the good ol' McConnell/Rocha household. Firstly, Veronica from Peace Corps stayed over the after Christmas-Before New Year stretch. Afterwards, it was Joshua from Macalester that came just a week later. I've enjoyed developing the routes that I take friends on, much of it being places that I regularly go to on my weekend as well as greatest hits that may be jaded to me, but are appreciated more deeply through a new set of eyes. My mom would often say something similar, as she moved here for college from Kansas City, that since we lived here we didn't fully appreciate the history and beauty of the city since its all we know.I will say, the one issue with having friends over means feeling a bit more loose about spending in general. For those that know Joshua, he is not what I'd consider a materialistic person. We did end up buying a good amount of stuff though, as Josh cited his "$100 dollar bill" as the reason for his increased consumerism. I was also able to utilize my favorite Christmas gift that I received, my new MFA museum membership. It's fun taking multiple people to the same museum, despite being in the same building people often engage with it in drastically different ways. This is not to say either one of my friends did it better, it's just nice to know there's really not one way of enjoying art. It's also put into perspective for me how large the museum itself is. I've gone a few times now and I've seen at least a few new rooms every time, and could have spent much more time in others. I think my favorite exhibit I've seen so far is a collection of sculptures from one Martin Puryear. He is a contemporary sculptor and his sculptures were both, well, cool art and also technically impressive. Sometimes it's just good old fashioned fun walking around a museum

MARTY SUPREME REVIEW

Another thing I did was watch a movie, *Marty Supreme.* My takeaway is that it was very well produced and shot well. However, I did not care for the plot very much. Technical spoiler, but despite being intentionally a massive asshole, Mr Supreme never really faces any consequences. Ill admit to my bias of despising Timothee, and I'm not expecting every move to have a "happy" ending, you do sometimes want people to get what's coming to them. Ultimately, I'd recommend watching it despite my specific distaste

WORDS OF THE MONTH

Always been a good word, mostly because of the lack of opportunities to use it. Who was even talking enough about adding salt to water that wasn't like normal saltwater to the point where we needed brackish? I have no idea but thank God they did so we get this funny word

Maybe my favorite "pretentious word" i.e. word that you really never need to say in conversation but does embody a specific aspect. Giving extra words to "bad" sensations lets you feel smart when you find yourself in the situation where you can bust this baby out. In some ways, it is more of a tool than a true part of speech.

This is kinda cheating cause it's kinda local slang, but scrod at least in my area means any time of whitefish filet. I just love the word cause it almost sounds fake but I will say it tastes pretty good. Funnily enough the word is attributed to the same hotel that Ho Chi Minh worked at in his time in Boston

ROUTINE

As I've mentioned a few times before, this has been a period of unprecedented stability, and with that has come an opportunity for more routine. My main routine that I have focused around is on Thursday before I start my work for the week. I work remote on Thursday, so that allows me a solid first half of the day to do with what I please. At risk of double repeating myself, my routine centers around the leftovers TooGoodToGo bag from City Feed and Supply. It's only $5 and you're guaranteed a good return. Most recently, I got a bunch of bread, croissants, a can of refried beans, 2 yogurt cups, and some mixed greens. Sometimes you can really luck out and get extremely fancy ground beef and jerky. Thankfully, City Feed is on a main drag in Jamaica Plain so I've made a rotation of stores that I visit. I start by walking around as the pickup isn't ready until 10, I get my bag and then head to the Goodwill to see if they have anything then to a coffee shop to read a book before the bus comes to take me home. Perhaps the best part of this routine is that it helps me not become fully nocturnal, as I do have to wake myself up at the wee hour of 8:30 AM to catch the bus. I've been trying to work in visiting the museum now, but I will say it's been a bit tough. I plan to go on Fridays and wake up at the same time, but so far I've just been building up my tolerance to the horrors of having to spend another day having to wake up before the clock has double digits. I have really enjoyed it though, I credit it to getting me back into reading and the food itself is also worth the trip. Who knows, maybe in another year I'll have a routine unique for every day and be getting out of bed before the sun rises. Until then, I'll be happy with what I can manage